WELSH OFFICE OF HEALTH
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NARBERTH RURAL DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year 1952.

VITAL STATISTICS

Resident Population (Registrar General's Estimate).....1952..... ..... 10,060.....

	Narberth R.D. 1952	Narberth R.D. 1951	County of Pembroke	England & Wales
Birth Rate (per 1,000 pop)	15.3	15.5	16.4	15.3
Death Rate (per 1,000 pop)	12.03	14.4	11.68	11.3
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	32.46	12.6	25.04	27.6

Causes of Death

	M.	F.
Total (all causes)	70	51
Respiratory Tuberculosis	2	1
Cancer	8	10
Diabetes	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	15
Coronary Disease, angina	12	4
Other heart disease	8	11
Circulatory disease	-	2
Pneumonia	1	-
Bronchitis	4	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis, & diarrhoea	1	-
Nephritis & nephrosis	4	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	10	3
Motor vehicle accidents	5	-
All other accidents	1	-
Suicide	1	-

The death rate is lower than in 1951, but it is slightly higher than the rate for the County, and for England and Wales; but of these, 69, or 57%, were over the age of 70 years, and 23 deaths, or 19% of the total deaths, were over 80 years of age.

The main causes of death were heart disease, vascular lesions of the nervous system, and cancer.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is considerably higher than in 1951, and is slightly higher than for the whole of England and Wales. But a difference of only one infant death would have brought the figure to a lower level than that for the whole country, which fact illustrates once more the fallacy of figures where total numbers are small, as they are in an area such as this.

There were five deaths of infants under 1 year. Two of these were due to prematurity, and occurred in less than a week, one was due to atalectasis, (failure of the lungs to expand), one to pyaemia and multiple abscesses, and one to broncho-pneumonia.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Whooping Cough	4	Measles	7	Scarlet Fever	2
Pneumonia	1	Poliomyelitis	1		

The case of Poliomyelitis was admitted to the West Wales Isolation Hospital, Tumble.

TUBERCULOSIS

5 cases of Tuberculosis were notified, of which 2 were respiratory. Three of these cases were admitted to Hospital during the year, in addition to three cases previously notified.

There were 3 deaths due to Respiratory Tuberculosis.

The Mobile Unit of the Mass Radiography Service visited the County in the Autumn, and the inhabitants of this area had an opportunity of being X-rayed at either Narberth or Tenby.

NARBERTH CENTRE

	Grand Total	Male	Female
Total No. of persons examined	734	344	390
Definite Respiratory T.B.	-	-	-
Needing further observation for respiratory T.B.	3	3	-
Healed primary T.B.	11	8	3
Inactive respiratory T.B.	7	2	5
Non-tubercular abnormalities	38	19	19

TENBY CENTRE

	Grand Total	Male	Female
Total No. of persons examined	900	370	530
Definite respiratory T.B.	-	-	-
Needing further observation for respiratory T.B.	3	2	1
Healed primary Tuberculosis	34	16	18
Non-tubercular abnormalities	50	26	24

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NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

VACCINATION

Records were received of 37 primary and 5 secondary vaccinations.

IMMUNISATION

Records were received of the immunisation of 37 children, and of reinforcing injections given to 47 children.

Payment for these records i.e. both cases, is made by the County Council. Vaccination and Immunisation are carried out by the family Doctor.

It is regrettable that the level of both vaccinated and immunised children is falling in the area . Both Smallpox and Diphtheria have become almost non-existant in rural areas; but if the level of vaccination and immunisation falls, as it is doing, these diseases can become prevalent again. It is, therefore, most important that parents should have their infants protected in this way.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION.

Several cases of old people living alone were investigated, but no statutory action was found to be necessary. The Welfare Officer visits such cases regularly, and his assistance is invaluable.

WATER SUPPLY.

The extension of mains to outlying districts has continued. Work in the New Moat and Llawhaden districts was completed early in the year. The extensions in the Grondre, Llanfallteg, and Lampeter Velfrey areas were completed, and work was nearing completion in the Ludchurch and Amroth areas.

Work on the Loveston to Herbeston, Reynalton to Carne, and East Williamston to Williamston extensions was started in March 1952.

The number of houses and other properties supplied from the mains at the end of 1952 was:-

Amroth	120	Llawhaden	45	Minwere	1
Begelly	89	Llangolman	23	Narberth South	98
Bletherston	15	Llandissilio West	74	Narberth North	98
Coedcanlas	1	Llanycefn	27	New Moat	23
Crinow	17	Llysyfran	20	Newton	3
Crumwere	32	Llanfallteg	13	Reynalton	18
East Williamston	70	Llandilo	9	Robeston Wathen	51
Grondre	30	Loveston	8	St. Issells	637
Jeffreyston	84	Ludchurch	30	Vorlan	3
Lampeter Velfrey	66	Maenclochog	66	Herbeston	5
Llanddewi Velfrey	73	Martletwy	29		

Samples of water taken from mains supplies = 12

Satisfactory 11 Unsatisfactory 1

Two samples of water were taken from private supplies, both of which were unsatisfactory. The owners of the properties were advised as to the best method of procedure.

SEWERAGE

At Templeton, where the laying of sewers was completed at the end of 1951, 29 properties were connected, and plans had been received for another 7 conversions. Of the remaining 18 premises, three are prepared to connect to the sewer, two were empty, one half-demolished, and 2 or 3 more are in a doubtful category.

The disposal plant at Templeton is not altogether satisfactory, and your Sanitary Inspector recommended in April that a pump should be installed to drain excess liquor from the sludge-beds and re-pass it through the works. The sludge beds are too full to allow one to be rested and emptied and it must be pointed out that sludge will overflow on to adjoining land if this is not remedied.

A Public Enquiry was held at Maenclochog, but the consent of the Minister had not been given at the end of the year.

Work had started at Velfrey Road on the scheme to be carried out jointly by the Narberth and Carmarthen Rural District Councils.

The very unsatisfactory state of sewerage disposal at Saundersfoot gives rise to ever increasing concern. As early as 1899, an Inspector of the Local Government Board reported that 'the sewers of Saundersfoot are not properly constructed, that they are leaky, without ventilation, that there is no proper outfall, and that some of them discharge into a watercourse, and give rise to a nuisance'.

A plan for the proposed drainage of the village was presented during the same year to the Parish Council, but in spite of pressure from the Medical Officer and a section of the Council, agreement could not be reached, and the plans were passed backwards and forwards between the Parish Council and the Narberth District Council for several years.

A plentyful supply of wholesome water was brought to the village from Precelly in 1936-1937; but sewerage disposal remained as it was in 1899, except for the Wogan Street area, in which a sewer was laid by the Narberth Rural District Council at about the same time as the mains water supply.

There are constant complaints of overflowing cesspits, and of persons emptying cesspits on the beach, and the position gives rise to great anxiety.

The number of summer visitors increases every year, and for at least three months in the summer, the population is incresed six or seven-fold.

A comprehensive scheme has been drawn up for the sewerage of the area, but the main difficulty of satisfactory disposal has not yet been overcome.

It was decided that plans should be prepared for sewerage schemes in the following districts:-

Lampeter Velfrey village; Amroth; Crinow and Narberth North, in conjunction with a scheme for the Narberth Urban area; and Pentlepoir, Begelly and the western part of Hilgetty.

HOUSING

Sixteen houses at Saundersfoot and five houses at Templeton were completed.

Eight houses at Begelly were nearing completion.

The site works were completed and building started on a further twenty-three houses at Saundersfoot.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

Dorothy M. Griffiths,

M.B.,B.S.,D.P.H.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1952.

16th September, 1953.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

During the year the pressure of increasing work became a serious handicap. In consequence I drew your attention to the need for an additional Sanitary Inspector but you did not consider such an appointment to be necessary.

Drainage and housing matters accounted for most of my inspections. Although much of the former had to do with new works, connections to the Templeton Sewer and the maintenance of Sewage Works, there is a reflection of the need for main drainage in several Parishes particularly Maenclochog and Saundersfoot. It is gratifying to know that a Scheme for Maenclochog has now been approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Unfit houses have received my attention, occasioning many visits. In many cases it has been found convenient to deal with them on re-housing the tenants, but the number of such dwellings suggests a long term programme.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

W.J.M. Hodgkins,

Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING YEAR.

Total No. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	119
No. of dwelling houses inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations 1925 & 1932 included in previous column.	Nil
No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	27
No. of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action.	20

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING YEAR

Housing Act, 1936. Sections 9,10 & 16	
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	Nil
No. of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of formal notices (By Owners)	Nil
Public Health Acts.	
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	1
No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices (By Owners)	Nil

Housing Act, 1936. Sections 11 & 13.

No. of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made.	Nil
No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders.	Nil

Housing Act, 1936. Section 12.

No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made.	1
Undertakings accepted in respect of unfit dwelling houses in accordance with Section 11.	3

HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV - OVERCROWDING

No. of dwelling houses overcrowded at end of year.	Not known
No. of families dwelling therein.	"
No. of persons dwelling therein.	"
No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during year.	Nil
No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during year.	2
No. of persons concerned in such cases.	8

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Meat

Meat for human consumption in the District is delivered to butchers from Haverfordwest and Pembroke Dock.

Visits to butcher's shops total.....5

There is a private horse slaughtering house at Lampeter Velfrey. Meat is despatched by lorry to London. None is sold locally.

No. of inspections made.....15

Condemned Foods

Bacon	99 lbs	14 ozs.
Luncheon Meat	4 lbs	
Pork Brawn	1 lb	
Pork Luncheon Meat	4 lbs	8 ozs.
Pork Butts	3 lbs	3 ozs.
Cheese	1 lb	
Pears	2 tins	
Pineapple Jelly	1 tin	
Apricots	2 tins	
Evaporated Milk	12 tins	
Dried Milk	2 lbs	14 ozs.
Oranges	1 tin	

SANITARY INSPECTION.

No. of complaints received	39
No. of defects or nuisances discovered	27

Summary of Inspections

Dwelling houses:-

No. of inspections arising from housing applications	59
No. of inspections under Housing Act, 1936	51
No. of inspections in connection with Improvement Grants	39
No. of inspections under Public Health Act	68
Drainage	494
Infectious Disease Inquiries and Disinfections	10
Tents, Vans, sheds etc.	27
Schools	3
Factories (including bakehouses)	12
Shops (including ice-cream premises)	39
Refuse disposal	24
Water supplies	30
Miscellaneous	32

Preliminary Notices served

Housing	6
Public Health	17
No. of letters written (housing and Public Health matters only)	97

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDERS

No. of Registered Distributors	5
No. of inspections	3

Milk samples

Satisfactory 1 Unsatisfactory 1

Dairymen

Licensed to use the designation Tuberculin Tested 3

Ice Cream

Two samples were taken, both of which were satisfactory.

Food and Drugs Act.

Samples of milk taken 3
These were satisfactory.
One additional registration was made during the year.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Refuse during the year continued to be deposed of at the Narberth Urban District Council's tip and at Kingsmoor Common. Collections are on a weekly basis in most of the District with a twice weekly collection in Saundersfoot during the height of the holiday period.

There were occasional difficulties through sickness of one or the other of the drivers. Complaints of non-collection etc. were relatively few. Both men were provided with a mackintosh coat each and new gumboots.

SEWAGE WORKS

At the beginning of the year Mr. T.G. Ebsworth was transferred from the water department to my department and shortly afterwards Mr. J. Griffiths joined him.

These two men have since been employed almost entirely on sewage disposal plant maintenance. They have taken an interest in their work, are now accustomed to the routine and have a good working knowledge of the various plants.

With arrears of work at the outset most of the smaller disposal plants have been overhauled and put into good working condition. Works carried out under your instructions included the provision of a large soakaway to the Summerhill disposal plant and the laying of approximately 250 feet of 6" land drain to carry effluent from the disposal plant at Ludchurch.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

One part-time operator is employed.

Number of treatments:-

Sewers	6
Refuse tips	2
Business premises	8
Private houses	75
No. of rats recovered dead	116

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i)Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	38	10	Nil	Nil
(ii)Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(iii)Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL:	38	10	Nil	Nil